



TODAY'S FORECAST

39°
26°

This Weekend's Weather, See 3

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- Recap of tonight's women's game against Towson

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009

VOLUME 85, ISSUE 31



courtesy of CHRISTINE BEISEL

Victoria Faye Alcantara was a nursing major from Lorton. She was driving to a nursing convention.

Student's Death Gives Organs to Others

Junior died Friday in car crash along I-81

By ASHTON SMITH
The Breeze

Victoria Faye Alcantara was less than a week away from celebrating her 21st birthday, but instead of attending a party, she lay in the hospital about to give five strangers her organs.

Friday night the junior nursing major was on her way to a nursing conference in Virginia Beach when she lost control of her car on Interstate 81 and slammed the driver's side into a tree.

Paramedics rushed her to the University of Virginia Medical Center and the doctors determined that Alcantara had no brain activity and could breathe only with help from a machine.

"I went to see her in the hospital on Saturday, and I really didn't know what to expect," said junior Christine Beisel, a friend since fifth grade.

"It was a horrific car accident, but she was as beautiful as ever. She didn't have a bruise or scar on her. It just looked like she was sleeping."

The Lorton native passed away Sunday, but not without doing one last good deed.

She was an organ donor and because of that some of her organs went to five people, possibly saving lives.

"[It's] what she would have wanted, being a nursing student," Beisel said.

Alcantara worked as an office assistant in

See **ALCANTARA**, page 4

Virginia Tuitions May Rise 10 Percent

Higher Ed now a middle-class dilemma

The Washington Post

RICHMOND — Virginia's public colleges and universities are considering raising tuition this fall by as much as 10 percent to make up for massive cuts in state funding.

The potential for a dramatic tuition increase has state legislators worried that Virginia's well-regarded higher-education system might be moving beyond the reach of many middle-class families. But they disagree sharply on how to solve one of the most serious problems stemming from the state's estimated \$2.9 billion shortfall.

Members of the House want schools to voluntarily keep tuition increases below 6 percent in return for extra state aid. Senators want to let schools raise tuition as needed and provide more financial aid to students. Neither approach, legislators agree, is likely to satisfy parents or university officials.

"I must tell you that this continuing cycle of budget cuts is really getting to a tipping point," Charles W. Steger, president of Virginia Tech, told lawmakers last week.

“We will seriously consider whether or not we will accept more students for this fall.”

— **LINWOOD H. ROSE**
JMU President

”

Democratic Gov. Timothy M. Kaine has proposed cutting funding for higher education by about \$296 million over two years. That translates into a 5 to 7 percent reduction in funding this fiscal year and 10 to 15 percent next year.

It would be the third time in the past two years that Virginia has slashed aid to colleges.

The potential tuition increases come as many laid-off workers are attempting to return to college to acquire new skills, and the economy is prompting students to stay in school longer.

"You are running up tuition for middle-class people that are not eligible for financial aid," said Del. Clarke N. Hogan, R-Charlotte, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "You really hit them hard."

University officials said they are in a bind because they are facing steep cuts at the same time costs are rising.

At Virginia Tech, Steger said, classes are already too large, and the lack of available classrooms means some classes have to run as late as 10 p.m. Some schools are freezing or reducing enrollments to cope with the cuts.

Several university officials told the

See **TUITION**, page 5

Winter Weather Woes

What and who decides whether classes are canceled?



By ANNA YOUNG
The Breeze

As students sloshed and slid to classes Wednesday morning, many wondered why classes were merely delayed two hours instead of being canceled entirely, as they were on Tuesday.

"I wouldn't mind if classes were canceled," said senior Mickey Tomar, who bikes from College Station to campus every day. "On the sidewalk I would do a little drifting, so I put myself at risk."

Tomar thought the university didn't keep in mind students who travel to classes through alternate means, and had a difficult time pedaling his way to campus.

"Not everyone has a car... but it looks like everyone else made it to campus all right, so I guess they made the right call," he said.

Other students, particularly those who live on campus or drive to class, thought the two-hour delay was useful in getting campus more cleared.

"It seems like there are still some pretty icy spots around campus and so it seems sort of dangerous, but coming out now [around noon] it's not too dangerous, just a little wet," said Josh Smead, a freshman who lives in Bell Hall.

Regardless, when it comes to inclement weather the fate of JMU students and faculty lies in the hands of JMU's Public Safety Department, which looks at early road conditions and on-campus accessibility to see whether it's safe for students, faculty and staff to travel to campus, according to Don Egle, university spokesman.

"They talk to Facilities Management, making sure that we are able to create a safe environment on campus in terms of sidewalks and things like that," Egle said.

Public Safety then makes recommendations to JMU's administration so university officials can make the final decision, according to Egle.

"I think the university should have the final

See **SNOW**, page 4

AMY GWALTNEY/The Breeze

Snow falls over the railroad tracks Tuesday morning, before freezing rain took over and iced roads. Classes were delayed two hours Wednesday.

JMU 21st in Peace Corps Members

Seniors to join 44 alumni already serving the world

By ARIANA WITT
contributing writer

Once the caps are thrown and the post-commencement celebrations have ceased, a few newly minted alumni may find themselves in countries such as Morocco, Bulgaria and Fiji. Besides all being developing countries, these nations share another commonality by serving as posts for the Peace Corps.

In far away places, the recent graduates will be applying their fresh degrees in a less traditional manner than their peers.

Senior Bianca Monroe has known since high school she wanted to follow a different route after college.

"I wanted to join the Peace Corps right out of high school, but I decided to come to college first to get a better perspective," said Monroe, a sociology

major. "I became more aware of the differences in the world and realized more and more that I wanted to experience them for myself."

See **PEACE**, page 4

TOP LARGE SCHOOL (15,000+) PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTORS

TOP TEN:	
1. University of Washington	104
2. University of Colorado, Boulder	102
3. Michigan State University	89
4. University of California, Berkeley	83
5. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	82
6. University of Wisconsin, Madison	81
7. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	77
8. University of Texas, Austin	70
9. University of Oregon	65
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	65

VIRGINIA SCHOOLS:	
11. University of Virginia	62
21. James Madison University	44
University of Georgia, Athens	44
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	44
24. Virginia Tech	43

Icy Situation



ADRIENNE GOLDBERG/The Breeze

Just after 4 p.m. Wednesday, a vehicle struck a JMU student on a moped at the intersection of Bluestone Drive and Carrier Drive.

"At this point it is our understanding that the injuries are not serious or life threatening, but the individual did have at least minor injuries," said Don Egle, university spokesman.

The driver of the vehicle has been charged with failure to yield, according to Egle.

The driver declined to comment and disclose her name to *The Breeze*.

Page 2

World/National News

Iraq Elections Could Reduce Kurdish Power

QARAOQOSH, Iraq — Iraq’s upcoming provincial elections have exacerbated tensions along the ethnically mixed frontier between the traditionally Arab parts of the country and its Kurdish autonomous region in the north.

As Election Day looms in Nineveh province, where the most dramatic power shift is expected, Sunni Arab politicians are vowing to curb the influence of the Kurdish regional government, which in recent years has sent millions of dollars and thousands of soldiers into villages south of the territory it formally controls.

The 2005 elections, which most Sunni Arabs boycotted, left Nineveh province solidly in the hands of Kurds, a minority in the predominantly Arab province. The Kurds currently hold 31 of the 37 seats on the provincial council, the equivalent of an American state legislature. In the vote set for Saturday, Arabs in Nineveh are widely expected to win a comfortable majority.

Taking the reins of Nineveh’s government would allow Arabs to appoint a governor and use their political power to roll back Kurdish expansion, which is being bitterly contested in villages across the 300-mile swath of disputed territories, as well as in Baghdad and in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite Arab, and Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government, have exchanged heated accusations in recent weeks, underscoring the intensity of a conflict that U.S. officials and Iraq experts have come to view as Iraq’s most potentially destabilizing.

Senate Choices Not Ideal For Re-election

WASHINGTON — The confusion and controversy surrounding the recent appointments of four Democratic senators has come with a potential twist — it could complicate the party’s efforts to solidify its majority in the Senate.

New York’s Kirsten Gillibrand, who was sworn in this week to fill the seat vacated by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, became the third person named to the Senate in the past month who could face difficulty winning re-election next year.

Republicans are already eyeing strong challenges to Sens. Roland W. Burris, Ill.,

and Michael F. Bennet, Colo., both selected by their states’ governors over others seen as stronger contenders for statewide office.

New York political consultant Dan Gerstein said the appointments were made for a variety of reasons, but political appeal “was not the central consideration with three of the four.”

He said Gillibrand could be a strong candidate to retain the seat in 2010, but he was not sure if that was true of Burris or Bennet. Newly appointed Sen. Edward E. “Ted” Kaufman, named to fill Vice President Biden’s Delaware seat, has said he will not run for the seat and is generally viewed as a placeholder until Biden’s son Beau can run.

GOP Resists Pressure For Stimulus Plan

WASHINGTON — Trying to build support for his \$825 billion economic stimulus plan before a crucial vote, President Barack Obama traveled to Capitol Hill on Tuesday but continued to meet a stubborn wall of complaints from Republicans that the cost of the package was unacceptable.

Republicans praised Obama for listening to their concerns, but many said afterward that they would not support the proposal.

The House is set to vote on the package Wednesday. There seemed little chance that Republicans, who lack sufficient numbers, could have much effect on the plan before it headed to the Senate.

Asked if the session with Obama had swayed votes, Rep. C.W. “Bill” Young, R-Fla., said, “I doubt that. This package has his brand on it, and I don’t think he’s prepared to change much.”

“I don’t think too many Republicans are going to vote for this stimulus package because most of us don’t believe it will work,” Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said after emerging from the meeting with the president.

Still, Obama appeared to be trying to pressure Republicans to get aboard.

“The main message I have is that the statistics every day underscore the urgency of the economic situation. The American people expect action,” Obama said between separate meetings with House and Senate Republicans.

“There are some legitimate philosophical differences with parts of my plan that the Republicans have, and I respect that,” Obama said. “I don’t expect 100 percent agreement from my Republican colleagues,

but I do hope that we can all put politics aside and do the American people’s business right now.”

But as Obama made the rounds on Capitol Hill, waves of energized Republicans hit the cable airwaves and rolled out news releases condemning the plan. They argued that the package contained too much government spending on infrastructure and on other projects, and not enough tax cuts.

L.A. Man Kills Family, Blames Job Loss

LOS ANGELES — Watching his family’s new, two-story home being built in 2001, Ervin Antonio Lupoe appeared to be riding a wave of hope and excitement. He dropped by each week to check the progress, one construction worker recalled.

But in what authorities believe was a gruesome burst of anger after he and his wife lost their jobs, the burly 40-year-old X-ray technician turned that same Wilmington home into a family tomb, officials said Tuesday.

Armed with a handgun, Lupoe evidently roamed room to room starting as early as Monday evening, fatally shooting his wife and five young children — including two sets of twins.

Early Tuesday, Lupoe faxed a bitter, rambling two-page letter to a local television station blaming his employer for his actions. Though his wife and children were already dead, he also called the station threatening to kill his family, investigators believe. He followed this up with an incongruous call to police saying that he had returned home and that “my whole family has been shot.”

Before police and firefighters arrived, he turned the weapon on himself, authorities believe.

Amid record job losses and economic distress for millions of families, the killings struck a chord.

“This was a financial- and job-related issue that led to the slayings,” said Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Kenneth Garner. “It’s a grisly scene.”

But evidence was emerging Tuesday evening that the couple had been fired after an investigation into misconduct and had not been laid off as part of cost-cutting.

-The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times

MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student and faculty readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in its First Amendment rights.

The Breeze is published Monday and Thursday mornings and distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Tim Chapman, editor.

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POLICE LOG

ALCOHOL

On Jan. 23 a JMU student was charged with underaged possession in Garber Hall.

On Jan. 24 one student was charged with public drunkenness at the Godwin Hall bus stop, and a student in Garber Hall is facing judicial review for an alcohol violation.

On Jan. 28 a student was charged with being drunk in public in Chandler Hall.

DRUGS

On Jan. 24 students were charged with possession of marijuana in Logan Hall, Wayland Hall and Garber Hall.

LARCENY

On Jan. 22 a JMU employee reported the theft of a handicapped parking sign valued at \$200.

On Jan. 24 a JMU student reported the theft of a \$400 mountain bike outside of Jackson Hall.

On Jan. 25 a JMU student reported the theft of nine shower curtains from two bathrooms in Chesapeake Hall.

OTHER

On Jan. 23 an assault was reported in McGraw-Long Hall.

On Jan. 23 JMU employee reported \$100 worth of damage to a parking meter in the R7 lot.

On Jan. 23, during a fire alarm investigation, a police officer discovered a malicious extinguisher discharge resulting in damage valued at \$25.

On Jan. 25 a JMU student reported property damage to their laptop computer in McGraw-Long Hall.

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National Chain Blows Circuit



PAUL JONES/contributing photographer

Circuit City electronic superstores are closing across the nation, including its location in Harrisonburg Crossing facing Wal-Mart. The chain store filed for bankruptcy in November and will close all 567 stores in the U.S. by the end of March.

By FORD PRIOR
contributing writer

Circuit City, America's second-leading electronics store has draped a "CLOSING SALE" sign on its front doors. It's not often that such high-caliber superstores crash and burn, so many are curious to know how exactly it happened. The corporate titan's downfall was seemingly abrupt. Shares dropped 17 percent in 2006, then 29 percent in 2007. Before it could announce its losses for 2008, it filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in November 2008, according to Forbes' Web site. Hoping to remain intact, Circuit City executives placed their corporation up for auction. After several unsuccessful days on the auction block without a buyer, they had no choice but to announce plans to liquidate on Jan. 16. Circuit City will sell all its merchandise and shut the doors to all 567 U.S. superstores by the end of March of this year. For Circuit City loyalists, after March their electronic fix will lie a 24-hour road

trip away — superstores in Canada will remain open. Across the country, closing dates will vary from store to store. The manager of Harrisonburg's Circuit City declined to comment on when exactly they planned to close. What sort of effects will result from Circuit City's closing? Good for some and bad for others, ripples will be felt in the farthest reaches of the national market pool. "As for effects, the liquidation of Circuit City represents a big loss to Circuit City shareholders and [its 34,000 laid-off] employees, but will strengthen the remaining electronics retailers, especially Best Buy," said William C. Wood, JMU economics professor and director of the Center for Economic Education. Ground employees will presumably keep their jobs until their respective stores close, and behind-the-scenes workers — like many at headquarters in Richmond — have received a 60-day window to find new work. A small executive staff will remain in Richmond to administer and see through the closings.

Meanwhile, college students can plainly see at least one reason to smile: cheap electronics. According to the Circuit City Web site "closing sales will run as long as it takes to sell existing inventory but are expected to wrap up by the end of March. When the liquidation sales are completed, the stores will be closed." These liquidations are run not by Circuit City itself, but by a host of independent, private liquidators. At the moment, discounts linger at around 30 percent, but these will inevitably lower with time. A student's best strategy is to stop by every week or so and check prices until they lie within his or her budget. "I've already been once, but 20, 30 percent [off] isn't that big of a difference," said Kyle Miner, a sophomore math major. "I'm going to wait it out. If everyone buys now, there'll be nothing left when the real sales come around." He plans to return to Circuit City as soon as possible. So if the laptop, flip phone, iPod or flat screen T.V. needs replacing, the next two months will be the time to do so cheaper.

24,500 Virginians Laid Off in December

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Unemployment in December rose in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for the first time in 33 years of record-keeping, according to government data released this week, while consumer confidence in the economy tumbled once more in January after reaching historically low levels last month. Bureau of Labor Statistics data offered more evidence of an economy growing increasingly fragile, even in the Washington region, which traditionally has been sheltered from dramatic job losses because of the presence of the federal government. Despite that, 24,500 people in neighboring Virginia lost their jobs in December when the unemployment rate jumped to 5.4 percent from 4.8 percent. Washington's jobless rate soared nearly a point in December, to 8.8 percent from 8.0 percent the previous month. The unemployment rate in nearby Maryland rose to 5.8 percent from 5.3 percent. The ranks of the unemployed grew by 9,000 in Maryland and 2,800 in the District. The Washington region and the rest of the country suffered heavy losses in manufacturing, hospitality and especially retail. For instance, Richmond — based Circuit City, the nation's No. 2 electronics retailer, laid off 800 after its November bankruptcy filing and intends to cut an additional 34,000 jobs nationwide when it shuts down all 567 stores in March. Hundreds more cuts are expected, with announcements Tuesday of job cuts at Minneapolis-based Target and a loss of 650 jobs at Volvo's truck assembly plant in Dublin, Va. Washington's unemployment rate is well above the national rate of 7.2 percent. City officials said they expect it to climb to 10 percent by next year. That rate "really does mirror national trends in the sectors where nationally we're seeing job losses," said Joseph Walsh, acting director of the city's Department of Employment Services, adding that 1,300 jobs were lost in professional and business services, 200 in construction, 100 in financial services and 100 in hospitality. "The District isn't immune to the forces hitting the [national] economy." This week, several companies, including Caterpillar, Pfizer and Sprint Nextel, announced that they were cutting 55,000 jobs across the country because of the slowing economy. Conference board data released Tuesday illustrate the connection between job losses and consumers' dimmed faith in economic conditions. Consumer confidence declined to 37.7 in January from 38.6 in December, which already was the lowest reading since the index began in 1967. The nonprofit research group found that

See UNEMPLOYMENT, page 5

SGA Looks to Replace Resigning Treasurer

Senior Andy Gibson has resigned as SGA Treasurer for the 2008-09 school year and now the SGA is looking to replace him. "I resigned as executive treasurer because I noticed I was doing too much and I had gotten really sick toward the end of the semester," Gibson said, "and I just wanted to make sure that

I was happier in what I was involved in." The fix will not be a temporary position, but the person hired in February will remain in the position through the following year. ■ Applications are due Feb. 11 by 5 p.m. in Taylor 203.

Warsaw's Faulty Sign Causes Parking Despair for Students

Entering the Warsaw Parking Deck lately has been a frantic race to find one of the few available spots, especially since the counter that lets parkers have an idea of their chances is broken. The counter outside of the parking deck has been either wrong or shut off for the better part of two weeks, and Parking Services say they are working to correct the problem. "We believe that one or more of the detectors has either been damaged or has failed for whatever reason," said Bill Yates, the associate director of Parking Services. "As soon as we are able to replace or repair the malfunctioning detector(s), we'll power on the count system's displays." Although Yates did not go into detail of how the detectors could fail, he did say that they have not been able to fix the counter because of the cold temperatures that have hit Harrisonburg the last few weeks. "If we are unable to correct the problem ourselves within the next few days, we will request that the vendor who supplied the equipment dispatch a technician to repair the system," Yates said.



JESSICA DODDS/The Breeze

Available parking spaces are not displayed on the sign in front of the Warsaw Parking Deck due to malfunctioning sensors.

— Staff Reports

Due to this week's SGA meeting being canceled, SGA notes will resume next week.

ALCANTARA: Will Have Scholarship Established in Her Name

Alcantara, from front member of alpha Kappa Delta Phi sorority. She joined the sorority in Fall 2007.

Her sorority sister, senior Melissa Paschall, said she started blood drives and adopt-a-highway cleanups. But something that Alcantara took great pride in was her vice president of community service seat.

In that position, she organized fundraisers and service events for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

THE MEMORIES

Beisel said that one of her favorite memories of Alcantara was when they traveled to Europe with their high school orchestra. Alcantara played the violin for nine years.

The trip included stops in Austria, Budapest, the Czech Republic and Germany.

“We were at this restaurant in Budapest, a very, very traditional Hungarian restaurant, and the waiters dressed in Hungarian attire,” Beisel said. “They started dancing to traditional Hungarian folk songs and Victoria was one of the lucky, or unlucky, people to be chosen to dance with the Hungarians. They were yelping and doing weird Hungarian things, and it was really funny.”

According to Beisel, her favorite movie was “Lilo and Stitch” and she was really into Disney and Hello Kitty.

“She has a Hello Kitty trash can, Hello Kitty lunch box, Hello Kitty everything,” said senior Jay Ahn, the alpha Kappa Delta Phi president, “and she would always give us things that had Hello Kitty on them.”

But some of Alcantara’s other favorite things included her two favorite colors: baby pink and baby blue.

“She had everything in those colors,” Ahn said. “Once we joked

about her baby blue Timberlands, since those shoes are the epitome of manliness and ruggedness.”

But along with her love of pastels, was her love of school. According to Beisel, Alcantara was brilliant.

“I had chemistry with her in high school, and I probably would have failed it if I hadn’t had her in the class, I was so bad at it,” Beisel said.

Beyond good grades, she was planning to make sure that she secured herself a future in nursing, and her sorority sisters came across something that Alcantara had not mentioned she was doing.

“As we, kdphi sisters, were cleaning her room and packing her belongings for her parents this afternoon, we found an application to intern at Georgetown Hospital for the summer,” Ahn said Tuesday. “She would’ve made an excellent nurse and there is no doubt about it.”

Alcantara’s boyfriend, Mike Lopez, a junior at Christopher Newport University, was her high school sweetheart. They celebrated their five-year anniversary this past year.

Lopez has since returned home to Northern Virginia for the arrangements, which have not been announced yet.

But some family will have to fly a long way to attend.

Alcantara returned to the Philippines most summers, because she was a “proud” Filipino and has family that lives there.

‘I WAS BLESSED’

Beisel said that she was glad she got to see Alcantara over Winter Break one last time. Because of their different majors, they rarely were able to see each other while they were at school.

“Over Winter Break I was really blessed to have seen her and her

boyfriend Mike and we went to IHOP after midnight,” Beisel said. “But we were all talking about what we wanted to do after school, and looking back on that, I was so lucky. Of course we had no idea what was in store for us, and it was a great time and we realized that we had grown up.”

As for now, Alcantara’s sorority will look to leave her legacy around the JMU campus because they are picking up a second philanthropy in her honor.

“JMU alpha Kappa Delta Phi will be donating \$3,000 to JMU to establish the Victoria Alcantara Scholarship for nursing students,” Ahn said. “We haven’t worked out details with the university yet, but we want Victoria’s name and legacy to live on for generations. She wished to help female nursing students with financial need, dedication to community service and excellent academic records.”

Wednesday night in front of Wilson Hall, several gathered to hold a vigil for Alcantara and remember the friend they lost.



courtesy of CHRISTINE BEISEL

SNOW: Some Profs Hold Saturday Classes

Snow, from front

say, and I think they should listen to what Public Safety has to say,” freshman Jordan Moore said. “But also they have to think about the sidewalks and people walking to class and people driving in — not just the buses — so they have to look at the university as a whole before they make their decision.”

JMU Police Chief Lee Shifflett, head of Harrisonburg’s Public Safety Department, could not be reached for comment, despite multiple attempts to do so Wednesday.

Harrisonburg’s Department of Public Transportation also helps decide whether JMU should cancel class, according to Reggie Smith, director of HDPT, because of their role in transporting students to campus via public transit buses.

“Years ago, very few students lived off campus, very few professors

lived outside Harrisonburg, and now you’ve got people coming from everywhere,” Smith said. He added that he thought JMU made the right decisions for Tuesday and Wednesday, but cautioned people having the attitude that if public transit buses are running, the roads are good.

“Generally the buses can go very well, but what happens is people slide into the buses,” Smith said.

Whether riding the bus, driving, biking or walking, students still went to their scheduled 10:10 a.m. classes, but any classes before this time were canceled. On a snow day, professors have the options of canceling classes on an individual basis and rescheduling any missed classes on a Saturday to make up for lost class time.

Steve Bates, a sophomore business management major, said, “I already have a Saturday class, I’m not looking to make up any more.”

PEACE: Volunteers Given Language Training for Three Months on Country’s Customs

Peace, from front

Come graduation, Monroe hopes to be spending 27 months in Eastern Europe. She would be joining the 44 JMU undergraduate alumni currently serving around the world. The figure has placed JMU among the top 25 schools listed by the recently published “Top Peace Corps Volunteer Producing Colleges and Universities.”

After having just shifted two years ago into the large schools category with a growing population, JMU was still able to tie with University of Georgia and University of Illinois at 21st on the list. The University of Virginia and Virginia Tech placed at 11th and 24th, respectively.

According to Monroe, once an individual decides to commit to the program and submits the application that is available on the Peace Corps Web site, an interview is scheduled. If accepted, the volunteer is placed at a location based on a combination of their preferences, their previous experiences and most of all, where they are needed.

Volunteers are given intense language training and educated for three months on the country’s customs.

They thank me for being here and for teaching their children.

— **APRIL SIMUN**
Peace Corps Volunteer

During this time they stay at a host family’s home.

“People assume that by joining the Peace Corps you will be living in a hut with no water,” Monroe said. She also

said there were misrepresentations of living conditions volunteers inhabit while they serve for two years.

Conditions of the area are investigated prior to any volunteer’s placement. Medically, if a volunteer cannot receive proper care in their current location, the Peace Corps will transport them where needed, including back to the U.S.

Monroe finds that ultimately the Peace Corps is the right choice, so she may “help people help themselves,” as volunteers teach communities skills that locals may continue to benefit from long after the volunteer’s time there is finished.

As for the response volunteers have to this unique experience?

April Simun, who spent her time in the Peace Corps in Moldova, posted her story on the Peace Corps site, saying, “They thank me for being here and for teaching their children. And I thank them for the lessons they have taught me in return.”

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UNEMPLOYMENT: Number of Jobs Added Below Average During Holidays

Unemployment from page 3
more people feel business conditions are poor and fewer expect their incomes to increase.

Those sentiments were underscored by predictions of dismal retail sales this year by the National Retail Federation. Tuesday, the NRF estimated that sales would dip 0.5 percent this year, the first decline since the trade group began tracking the figures in 1995. The bleak outlook was another sign of American shoppers' reluctance to spend during the recession.

"We are not optimistic about consumer spending in the near term," said Rosalind Wells, NRF chief economist.

The group predicted sales will drop 2.5 percent during the first half of the year from the comparable period in 2008. The third quarter is expected to decline by 1.1 percent before turning a positive 3.6 percent during the fourth quarter.

Fewer shoppers have meant fewer jobs. In Virginia, thousands of jobs were cut by Reynolds Food Packaging, LandAmerica Financial Group, Qimonda

North America, a Thomasville Furniture plant and numerous retailers, said William Mezger, chief economist for the state's Employment Commission.

"Normally, Virginia adds 25,000 jobs during the holiday. This year, it looks like it was 12,000 to 15,000," Mezger said. Besides having fewer new hires, he added, retailers are putting more employees on furlough because of weak sales.

Eric Seleznow, executive director of the Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board, said retail jobs dropped by 3 percent from December 2007 to December 2008. The losses, he said, were triggered in part by closings of KB Toys, Circuit City and Filene's stores.

Maryland, as are other states, is investing more money in job retraining programs, Seleznow said. In Baltimore on Tuesday, 700 policymakers from around the country attended a conference on workforce training — 200 more than were expected, he said.

"People are looking for any new strategy or idea to get people redeployed," Seleznow said.

TUITION: Prospective Students Have Reason to be Concerned

Tuition, from front
House Appropriations Committee last week that the quality of education will continue to suffer.

"We will seriously consider whether or not we will accept more students for this fall," said Linwood H. Rose, president of James Madison University.

Similar concerns about rising tuition costs are simmering in Maryland, although the state has managed to cap tuition for three years. Despite a \$2 billion shortfall, Gov. Martin O'Malley, D, proposed extending the tuition freeze for a fourth year.

"Maryland will clearly stand out in this regard," said William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the

University System of Maryland, "and I know we're going to have to make a real effort with the General Assembly to keep the governor's budget intact."

But Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., has questioned the tuition freeze this year, saying a moderate increase would be reasonable.

O'Malley's proposal does not include community colleges, so their tuitions are likely to rise this year as they absorb expected cuts.

In Virginia, about 360,000 students attend the state's 16 public four-year schools and 23 community colleges, making it the 11th-largest higher-education system in the country. Enrollment is expected to increase by 51,000 students in the next decade.

Financial Aid Deadline Approaching in March

March 1 is an important deadline for many students across the nation. Missing this deadline can have consequences for those continuing their education.

March 1 is the deadline to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the government to receive financial aid.

Brad Barnett, senior associate director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, recommends filling out the application online to ensure meeting the deadline. If you are submitting a FAFSA through the mail,

Barnett suggests mailing the application two weeks before the deadline to ensure it arrives and is processed in time.

FAFSA can be completed online at fafsa.ed.gov. The staff of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is prepared to assist students with filing their FAFSA.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is located on the third floor of Warren Hall.

— Staff Reports

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JAKE THIEWES/contributing photographer

Students include the James Madison statue, in front of Hoffman Hall, in their snow day activities.

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1	4					8	7	
				3			6	
9	8			2	7			
	1		4		3		5	
			8	1			2	9
	3			4				
	7	2					4	6
				7			3	5

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EDITORIAL

Fresh Start?

AFTER RUNNING an iconic campaign, constructing a near-Pantheon of a Cabinet and concentrating knowledge and experience close to his Oval Office, Barack Obama has actually begun to govern.

What have we gotten so far? Mostly a rollout of specific executive orders aimed at curtailing George W. Bush's legacy.

Obama has declared the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detainment camp, a symbol of the Bush presidency, within a year. Along with that comes the renunciation of torture through requiring that the Army Field Manual be followed when interrogating detainees. (Yet in true Obama fashion, the administration has left open the possibility of adding new techniques to the manual, providing loads of wiggle room for the future.)

He has also revoked an executive order drafted by Bush lawyer Alberto Gonzalez that limited access to presidential records.

Yet with any presidency, there will be shadows. Some are beginning to take shape.

The battle waging over Obama's stimulus package threatens to drain any bipartisan goodwill the president hoped on building, and the overpowering Democratic numbers in the Senate mean he doesn't need it. The country does, however, and President Obama should not forget the message of unity that permeated his campaign.

Obama's choice for Deputy Secretary of Defense, William Lynn, is cause for concern. Perfectly illustrating the revolving door between the private and government sectors, Lynn worked under Clinton before he worked for the defense contractor, Raytheon. But in the nomination process, Lynn faces hurdles created by none other than President Obama. Obama has instated new ethics rules that prevent former lobbyists from working in his administration on matters they've dealt with on behalf of clients.

Obama is already selectively enforcing his own, brand-new ethics rules — a move which recalls his predecessor in its subtle suggestion of executive supremacy. It also throws doubt over the new transparency he promises.

Former campaign rival Sen. John McCain and several watchdog groups have called him out, and we are as well. If you can't live up to the rules, don't make them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

America is About Equal Rights, Not Special Privileges

Turning on the television over the past year, one could not have helped but notice the unequal coverage that had gone to the election. As a self-proclaimed moderate, I was abhorred by the liberal media's slander in getting former Junior Sen. Barack Obama elected. Like John McCain, I didn't cry foul throughout the election process as coverage of the junior senator increasingly grew to the level of rock-star status. But Inauguration weekend was too much for me.

During President Bush's Inauguration in 2004, I was a freshman at JMU. I don't recall anyone raising a fuss over classes not being canceled; in fact, I don't even recall the JMU administration debating the issue. You might say, 'But Barack Obama was the first African-American president ever elected and it is historic!' But what about JFK's inauguration? Catholics had been persecuted for nearly 1,000 years, and as the first and only Catholic president in history, I wonder whether it was debated to cancel classes at Madison College on Jan. 20, 1961.

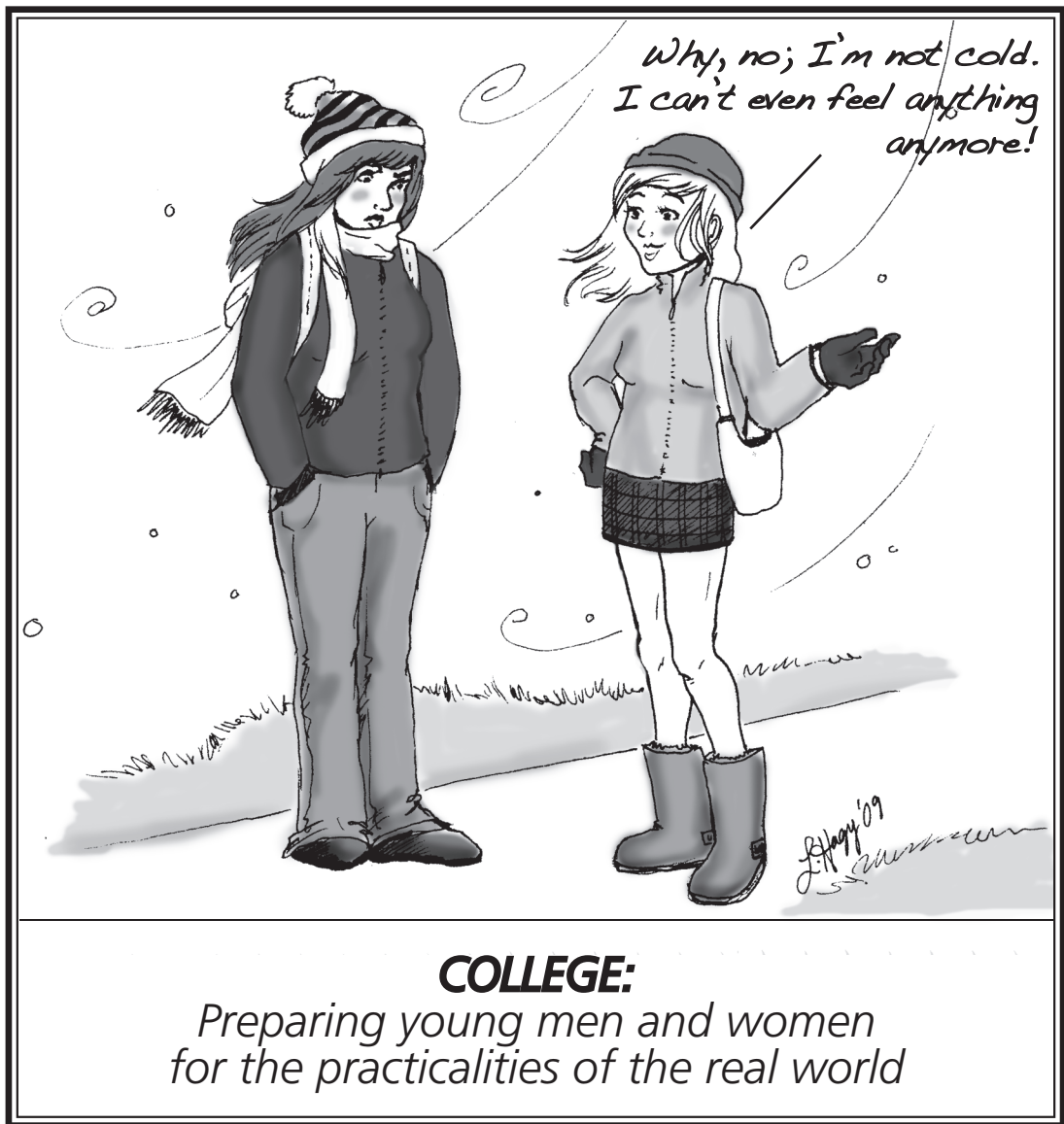
We as a nation are setting President Obama up for failure. When there are average Americans stating, "I won't have to worry about puttin[g] gas in my car, I won't have to worry about paying my mortgage," it should set off some alarms. Regardless of my political views, I am an American first and will support whomever my president may be. But there is a distinct difference between supporting someone and creating a demigod. As a history major, I do recognize the historical significance of the first half-Caucasian, half-African-American to be elected president. But I don't recall this kind of media coverage for President Bush's inaugurations in 2000 or in 2004.

Equal rights do not mean special privileges. They mean equal rights.

Christopher D. McGowan
senior history major

EDITORIAL CARTOON

LAUREN HAGY



GUEST COLUMN

JASON YAWORSKE, contributing writer

Pound Foolish

*Benefits of stimulus package are dubious;
Obama's reasoning is weak*

While it may be fashionable to believe that the folly of ill-planned interventionist wars will be the haunting legacy of the current administration, a more dire consequence of the supposedly hard-line partisan Bush administration may be his most bipartisan achievement. (And as all good conservatives know, bipartisan achievements are usually the creeping signs of an emerging kleptocracy.)

Bush's most enduring legacy will be the ease with which bills consisting of hundreds of billions of dollars were deemed acceptable by our government as responses to temporary issues.

Politics has a way of not only being short-sighted, but amazingly amnesic. We are now all told that our current economy is the worst since the Great Depression. In 1982, unemployment hit 11 percent, interest rates were a staggering 21 percent and inflation was a dangerous 13 percent.

What was done in those times by government was to limit spending and cut taxes, leading to by far the longest period of economic growth in our country's history, as well as increased government revenues. But never mind that; what we are now told is that we must look back further, to the 1930s, for guidance on how to deal with our current predicament.

The cures that follow from this reasoning would include increased taxes, increased spending and increased government programs and regulations. Never mind that the New Deal never saw unemployment drop below 14 percent, resulted in great debt, and even in 1939 FDR's treasury secretary admitted unequivocally that the New Deal did not work.

We are told now that we must spend billions to, as President Obama says, "prime the pump" of our economy. The main pump that apparently needs to be primed is that of job creation. Obama claims — with a clever use of political fall-back language — that the \$825 billion stimulus package will "create or save" 3 million jobs.

The fundamental basis of this kind of deficit spending — Keynesian aggregate demand theories — is so phenomenally flawed that it is truly

amazing that it still gains traction in intelligent circles. The idea of using government money to "create jobs" is particularly absurd; for every dollar that is "pumped into the economy," money must be first taken out of the economy through either taxes or future borrowing. If one thinks that this is a foolishly simple way of looking at government stimulus spending, then they are half-right: It is simply foolish.

If we are to decide that billions must be used to prop up the economy, why not, as one Republican Congressman suggested in a meeting with President Obama, simply give that money back to the people by means of tax cuts?

Across the board, tax cuts would spread money back to the people impartially and instantly, give people incentives to work and produce and limit or eliminate the influence of special interest groups and their lobbyists seeking to use the current panic to drink from the Federal trough.

People are already responding to the economy by cutting back and saving money. Both of these things are good, as cutting back forces the lemons out of the economy, and saving helps the bank and investment industries struggling with capital.

Why not offer tax cuts to further help people make these logical and helpful changes?

Obama childishly responded to this suggestion by saying that this would not be the purpose of his stimulus bill, and that the debate about tax cuts as a tool to stimulate the economy was over because, as he said, "I won. I'm the President."

Bipartisan and non-ideological, indeed.

The election is over, and Obama, who (one would guess) was the campus favorite to win, has been inaugurated. While students may be tempted, or even bored into forgoing and forgetting politics after such an emotional race, they may want to consider that politicians like House Minority Leader John Boehner are right when they admit that it is not his generation's money that they would be spending.

It is ours, and it is being spent unwisely by unwise people.

■ JASON YAWORSKE is a senior marketing major.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "thank-you-JMU, for-your-Wal-Mart-like-dedication" dart for remaining open when most off-campus parking lots were still frozen.

From a senior who felt like he drove down a slip-and-slide to get to campus.

An "I-loved-how-I-didn't-have-to-get-out-of-bed" pat to the JMU Emergency System for sending me a text message saying we had a snow day.

From a student who loved rolling over at 7 a.m. to discover she could sleep for four more hours.

An "it's-OK, you'll-find-someone-special-someday" pat to the presumably lonely student who was seen watching hard-core pornography at the wee hours of the night... in the computer lab at East Campus Library.

From a man who knows loneliness too.

A "you're-dirty" dart to my roommate, who leaves her dirty dishes in the sink and has a different guy over every week.

From your roommate, who does your dishes and cleans up without so much as a "thank you."

A "huge-part-of-our-community" pat to Clementine for letting a scene of our student film be shot inside your restaurant.

From a SMAD major who wishes all Harrisonburg businesses had the same attitude.

A "you-must-have-been-stoned" dart to the immature idiots who walked out onto Newman Lake in order to write "420" and "weed" in the snow.

From someone who thinks that now that you're in college, you should start acting like you're an educated person.

A "that's-the-spirit" pat to whomever transformed the old James Madison statue into a snowman (complete with carrot nose).

From a junior guy who thought it was the perfect mix of school spirit and fun when he drove by last night.

An "I-love-you" pat to James Madison University.

From a graduate student who just began her last semester here; it seems like just yesterday she was visiting and falling in love...

An "it's-not-over!!!" pat to the guys in Copper Beech who started the snowball fight on Tuesday.

From some avid snow fans who will be ready next time it snows.

A "stop-abusing-me!" dart to all the alcoholics on campus.

From your livers.

An "I'm-really-sorry-you-weren't-the one" pat to the girl I hurt so badly.

Your almost-unibrowed teddy bear.

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GADFLY

Blago is Ready for His Close-up

The events surrounding Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's corruption charges and impeachment proceedings are not so shocking, given Illinois politics' seedy reputation. Even less so given the waves of scandals that, of late, break upon the American public perpetually. What's fascinating is Blagojevich himself.



WHITTEN MAHER

The man wanted Oprah as a senator. It's not the mere idea of Oprah in public office that's so ridiculous. After all, there was (fringe) buzz surrounding her before the 2008 presidential campaign. It's the notion of a sitting governor seriously considering her. It illuminates the man's character, his desire for popularity and his political ambitions.

"Sowing Season." But Blagojevich flatly reciting the poem, hollowing out the words for his own weak defense, was insulting.

At once the man's frame of mind and the imminent defense narrative — "me against the system" — came into focus. By January it had morphed into a complex scheme by wicked Democratic legislators to raise the income tax. The pure irony of Blagojevich blaming "politicians" for his circumstances and characterizing his impeachment as "the fix" should not even be touched.

In the press and the blogs, you'll find pieces about "Blago-ville." Such appellations are appropriate, because it's become abundantly clear the governor of Illinois lives in his own world. His approval ratings before the scandal hovered at 16 percent, and he's ranked as the least popular of America's 50 governors by Rasmussen Reports. Don't bother him with that, though,

because he's got to beat corruption charges to become Illinois' favorite son once again.

When the TV-movie comes around (look for Sean Astin to be cast as the man-child governor, although Blago himself would probably peg Tom Cruise), he will be a damn good character. And of course the story is tragic: His impeachment is a matter of when, not if.

Even so, the Illinois legislature — indeed, all United States politicians — shouldn't be too pleased with themselves. Blagojevich's insulting, public relations campaign of a defense is simply

the advanced, terminal stage of the American political pathology: smile, deny, speechify and reframe the issue, dismissing facts as politics.

That Blagojevich's insane campaign for attention and vindication is tinged with his egotism and delusion doesn't mean it's not an accurate (if exaggerated) model of political operation.

Consider Larry Craig, who refused to admit explicitly what really went down in that airport bathroom and further refused to resign, even after pleading guilty. Or Hillary Clinton, who held onto the reins of her presidential primary campaign long before it should have bucked her off. She gave the speeches and made the appearances long after conventional wisdom (and most likely, herself as well) acknowledged there was no hope.

Politicians are incapable of publicly admitting unpleasant truths. That's a given. What adds insult to injury is the brazen way in which they counter the truth head-on with their own painstakingly crafted, thematic defense narratives.

Such is politics.

Blagojevich unknowingly channels "Sunset Boulevard's" Norma Desmond, the washed-up, deluded actress desperate for a comeback; after he wins this fight, he'll win another... and another.

Right.

Who knows? Maybe he's setting the stage for an insanity defense.

■ WHITTEN MAHER is a junior political science and media arts & design major and *The Breeze's* opinion editor.

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Recruiting Boost Coming?



AMY GWALTNEY/The Breeze

Dawn Evans set a Ted Constant Convocation Center opponent scoring record with 36 points in JMU's win over ODU.

By WES SHAW
The Breeze

JMU coach Brooks called a recruit he is currently targeting for his 2010 class following JMU's upset win over Old Dominion in Norfolk.

The current high school junior has reservations about becoming a Duke because she has been told JMU cannot beat Old Dominion.

Brooks wanted to make sure she heard the news.

"It's a rivalry not only on the court, but in recruiting battle as well," said Brooks, whose teams have defeated ODU in three of their last four matchups.

Brooks is very familiar with ODU and its players, many of whom he knows on a personal level.

Facing the Monarchs 14 times over the past seven years has established that sense of familiarity.

So has the fact that ODU has been the best team in the Colonial Athletic Association for the better part of two decades, making games against them that much more important for the Dukes.

Still, it is Brooks' history with individual players that really puts the rivalry into perspective.

"We haven't had a whole lot of success recruiting against Old Dominion, which is evi-

dent by the fact that I know so many of their players," Brooks said with a laugh.

Brooks unsuccessfully recruited ODU seniors Tiffany Green and Jazzmin Walters, sophomore Shadasia Green and freshman Margaret Harvey. Green, Walters and Green are all starters for the Monarchs, while Harvey has played in every game for ODU as a true freshman.

Brooks said he talked to each of them prior to JMU's victory over ODU on Sunday in Norfolk.

Considering the Monarchs' 17 consecutive CAA titles, it is not surprising that ODU has the recruiting advantage over JMU in Virginia.

Madison victories like Sunday's, which was the first over ODU by a visiting conference team in 37 tries, could potentially take one more step towards reversing that advantage.

Brooks has had to compete against ODU for Virginia's best prospect since he began coaching in Harrisonburg in 2002.

ODU has come out on top in the recruiting battle more times than not, but Brooks noted the fact that he beat out ODU to land Tamera Young.

"I'll take that over all those other players," he said.

See **RECRUITING**, page 10

COMMENTARY

The NFL's Forgotten Hero

By BILL PLASCHKE
The Los Angeles Times

Lost: Memories.
Name: Pat Tillman.
This is a story about a missing legacy.
The Super Bowl is here, but any mention of the most nationally beloved alumnus of either team is not.

Pat Tillman played for the Arizona Cardinals from 1998 through 2001, yet, as you watch the Cardinals play the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, you might never know it.

The NFL loves to wrap itself in the flag, yet the league has no plans to remember him.

The Cardinals have a statue and reflecting pool dedicated to Tillman outside their stadium, but nothing on their jerseys.

Tillman's foundation has no knowledge of any involvement. A Tillman family member said he was unsure of any family plans to attend.

An NFL spokesman said there may be something about Tillman on the NBC television broadcast, but there were no guarantees.

"I just think there's some missed opportunities there," Tillman's former Cardinals roommate, Zack Walz said. "Given what Pat represented, you would think they would do something."

In walking away from football and a multimillion-dollar contract at the height of his career to join the Army, he represented the ultimate patriot.

Dukes Look to Rebound Against ODU



AMY GWALTNEY/The Breeze

Old Dominion visited Julius Wells and the Dukes at the Convocation Center on Wednesday in CAA play. JMU led 33-32 at press time. Madison freshman forward Andrey Semenov led the Dukes with 13 points through the game's first 20 minutes. For a full story, visit breezejmu.org.

Tennis Hopes to End Skid

Dukes look for first win of the year at ODU on Friday

Men's Tennis Remaining Schedule	
Feb 14	St. Bonaventure
Feb 22	William & Mary
Feb 28	Georgetown
Mar 04	GEORGE MASON
Mar 09	The Citadel
Mar 10	East Carolina
Mar 14	Coastal Carolina
Mar 17	LIBERTY
Mar 21	Longwood
Mar 28	RICHMOND
Mar 29	DUQUENSE, HOWARD
Apr 04	Delaware, Drexel
Apr 05	UNC Wilmington
Apr 08	Radford
Apr 11	GW
Apr 17	CAA Championships

Tomorrow, the JMU men's tennis team travels to Old Dominion University to face the Monarchs. If they are victorious, the Dukes will pick up their first win of the season.

Last weekend, Madison lost to the 20th-ranked UNC Tar Heels, 7-0, falling to 0-4. Sophomores Matt King and Yaroslav Voznenko were the one bright spot for the Dukes, picking up JMU's only win. The duo prevailed 9-8 in No. 3 doubles play.

King recently transferred to JMU from ODU, where he competed with the Monarchs for the past year and a half.

JMU's strongest performances this season have been from junior, No. 1 singles player, Mike Smith. His combined record from fall and winter stands at 9-8.

King and Smith were teammates at Robinson High School in Fairfax, where they led the Rams to a Virginia AAA state championship in 2006. After Smith moved on to Harrisonburg, King helped RHS repeat in '07.

— Staff Reports

COMMENTARY

Media Day Now an NFL Freak Show

By MICHAEL WILBON
The Washington Post

TAMPA, Fla. — The NFL still calls the Tuesday of Super Bowl week media day. But in the interest of full disclosure, it's a little bit reality show, a little bit freak show. Yes, the players from the Cardinals and Steelers were there, dressed in their uniforms, no less. But they, like the rest of us, always seem to have one eye peeled for the bizarre, or at least the corny.

Everybody has an agenda at media day. Some folks want to know a player's life history, to tell the readers/viewers/listeners back home. Some players want to bolt as quickly as possible; others want to get a head start on a second professional career, in media.

Others, like the goofball guy with the blond wig and the boa, presumably want to get noticed. So do the hotties from TV Azteca — bless their barely covered curves — who actually work in sports television, kinda, and on media day do things like measure the circumference of players' biceps. I'm serious.

Players aren't actually the biggest stars of media day very often anymore. It's not like Joe Willie Namath sitting by the pool at a Miami hotel guaranteeing reporters the Jets would beat the Colts. There aren't many men like John Riggins and Deion Sanders. Few have to answer the real-life questions Ray Lewis did back some years ago. And fewer yet, in this day and age, have the complete disregard for authority that Bears quarterback Jim McMahon did.

Outsize personalities populate pro basketball, not pro football. So, the truth is media day has become a bit, well, contrived. Over in one corner you can see what looks like a woman in a flamenco outfit dancing with a Cardinals lineman. Sure enough, it's Renee Sapp (no kin of Warren's) from a local Arthur Murray dance studio doing the rumba with Alan Branch and Gabe Watson, each of whom is officially listed at 332 pounds.

On the way to the stadium, just seconds off Interstate 75, The Odyssey parking lot appeared to be full of cars and folks celebrating the Super Bowl. There were Steelers colors and Cardinals colors out front.

Not to be outdone, Mons Venus, directly across the street, advertised a webcam promotion and prepared for the Super Bowl onslaught.

And to think some NFL officials were about to freak out in the early 1990s when MTV's Downtown Julie Brown wanted a credential for media day. I can imagine Downtown now turning to look at the TV Azteca hotties and saying, "They'll let anybody into media day nowadays!"

Anyway, you could find downright naughty just outside Raymond James Stadium, and a little bit suggestive inside, which brings me back to the women of TV Azteca, particularly Inez Sainz, who has become a media day favorite of mine. She was the one (at least one) taking a tape measure and putting it around the biceps of various players.

Real conversation:
Sainz to Matt Leinart: "Can I see your biceps, please?"
Leinart: "It's not very big."
Sainz: "It's 18 [inches]; it's big enough."
Well, well, well.



CATHY KUSHNER/JMU Sports Media

As JMU's No. 1 individual player, junior Mike Smith is 9-8 in singles play in the 2008-09 school year.

RECRUITING: Win Could Tip Balance in JMU's Favor

Recruiting, from page 9

Young graduated from JMU as the CAA's all-time leading scorer and its second leading rebounder.

Brooks also noted the importance that he felt Madison's past superstars, like Young and CAA all-time leading rebounder Meredith Alexis, played in its historic win in Norfolk.

"It was a great feeling because it was a culmination of so many years of getting better and coming very close, and then finally getting over that hump," JMU's seventh-year coach said.

"As good as this win was for this team, I think that the players in the past really had a hand in this. They really built the mentality that if we go out and play our style of basketball and never back down we can win basketball games like this."

As grateful as Brooks was to his past players, he knows continued success against ODU could improve the status of his players in the future significantly.

While the aforementioned recruit is some-

what correct, Madison has not been able to dethrone ODU for the conference championship, Brooks did not hesitate to reiterate JMU's recent success against the Monarchs, including its 3-1 record in the last four games.

"We haven't beaten them when it means the most, but this is a great step," Brooks said. "We've had a lot of success against them lately and when we go recruiting we're able to talk about that."

"You hate to say it, but those things matter. I think this was a big boost for us."

JMU travels to Towson tonight to take on the Tigers before heading further up Interstate 95 to visit Hofstra on Sunday.

Towson is 3-4 in the CAA and 1-6 overall, while the Pride have a 4-3 conference record and 12-6 overall mark.

Both teams sit near the middle of the CAA, while JMU is now tied with Old Dominion for the conference's first place spot.

Brooks looks to stay perfect on Superbowl Sunday with a win over Hofstra this weekend. His teams are 6-0 when playing on the day of the Big Game.



AMY GWALTNEY/The Breeze

Junior guard Sarah Williams has started in 14 of JMU's 18 games this season, averaging 8.2 points and 4.3 rebounds in 27.8 minutes per contest. She had six points in JMU's win over ODU.

TILLMAN: NFL has no Plans to Honor Fallen Soldier

Tillman, from page 9

"There might be only 16,000 fans there, but, man, they all loved him, and he loved them," said Walz, who still lives in the Phoenix area. "There weren't many fans, but he could get them standing faster than anyone I've seen," said Walz, who still lives in the Phoenix area.

Yet, typically, it was in the shadows that Tillman made his biggest mark.

Once, when they were both Cardinals rookies, Walz was taped to the goal post by the hazing veterans. After Walz stood there in 100-degree heat for 10 long minutes, Tillman walked out to rescue him.

"He walked past all the veterans who warned him not to touch me," Walz said. "But he just kept walking."

Tillman cut the tape and freed his friend, and the veterans never did anything about it.

His toughness became further evident during the afternoon of one of this first training camps in Flagstaff, Ariz. While most of the players were resting before the evening workouts, he was out-

side running through an ROTC obstacle course.

Then there was the time he was helped from the field because of an ankle injury that would require him to sit out as much as a month.

"Later that week, we saw him alone on one of the practice fields trying to sprint and cut," said Walz, pausing. "While wearing an ankle boot."

Tillman thought as eccentrically as he played. During training camp he could be found reading a book while sitting in a tree. During the season, he studied his playbook at an Irish pub.

"We all knew he was just a different kind of person," Walz said. "We all knew he was special."

Walz was driving through Phoenix in the spring of 2002 when he realized just how special. It was 8 a.m., and Tillman was on the phone with some news.

"He told me he was going to leave football and join the Army," Walz said. "I cannot put into words how I felt when I heard that. But I know I felt small."

Tillman, who once said he had been angered

and inspired by 9/11, shunned publicity and virtually disappeared into the U.S. Army Rangers.

It wasn't until about a year and a half later that Walz, who has since retired, saw him again. He was in San Jose, Calif., visiting family when he was literally tackled in the bar by another local kid.

"I got up ready to fight, and then I realized it was Pat," Walz said.

Tillman was home from a first tour in Iraq, he was still only 27, and he had been offered millions of dollars from NFL teams confident he could be discharged early. But he refused to leave the Army before the end of his three-year commitment.

Tillman mailed Walz an extra set of the tags, then was deployed to Afghanistan, where, on April 22, 2004, while on patrol, he was killed by gunfire from a U.S. weapon.

The government didn't admit this at first, engaging in a lengthy cover-up, telling the news media that Tillman was killed fighting the enemy, engaging in lies that became a centerpiece of the

war resistance movement.

But none of this touched the memory of Tillman's sacrifice, the results of which will be evident again Sunday when his former team and its opponent will feel safe enough to run onto an outdoor field and compete in this country's biggest sporting event.

There is a chance if Tillman were still alive, he could be playing in this Super Bowl, a 32-year-old raging star finally being reward for his Cardinals devotion.

"He'd be everywhere, he'd make a big play in that game, you know that," Walz said.

In his absence during Super Bowl week, it would be fitting if the football writers would elect Tillman into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. After all, a group including everything that is wrong about sports — O.J. Simpson — should also be big enough for everything that is right.

"Nothing for Pat was ever out of the question, nothing was ever out of reach," Walz said. "He would have been so proud of his Cardinals."

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FASHION >> *Redefined by Class*

Learning the Art of Costume Creation

By **RACHEL CHERMERYNSKI**
The Breeze

A picture is enlarged on a projection screen. It's just a picture of a young woman standing on the street. Right? Not to the students enrolled in Pam Johnson's Costume Design class, who collectively pointed out aspects of the woman's outfit, from the “striking yellow” in her top to the lines created by the overall design.

“And you don't ignore the shoes,” Johnson shouted, referring to the jet-black boots the woman sported. “They're really very important.”

One could observe within the first five minutes of class that Johnson and her class of about 12 students see much more than just a simple jewelry advertisement. They see the textures, shapes, colors, movement and balance of a costume.

The costume design class is dedicated to understanding the nuances of costume design, from fashion to theatrical performances.

Johnson has been teaching the class for more than 30 years, and has developed the costume studies program at JMU, which includes courses on the history of clothing and stage makeup.

Johnson, along with two other professors, designs costumes for JMU's theatre productions. However, the actual costumes are fabricated in the costume shop, run by professional costumer Kathleen Conery.

Having worked with costume design for so many years, Johnson even keeps a book she calls the “bible” with all her past sketches showcased in it.

But, she doesn't keep her unique talent to herself — many of these techniques are mirrored in her class lectures to pass on to her students.

Johnson said that she hopes that upon the completion of her course her students can understand the technicalities of costume design, including how it relates to everyday life.

“We are what we wear, after all, and our clothing is a form of signage,” Johnson said.

See **DESIGN**, page 14



JESSICA DODDS/*The Breeze*

ABOVE: Senior Lauren Ramsey tries on the corset she wore in “The Rover,” during costume design class. **LEFT:** Professor Johnson shows the class of 12 students a typical costume sketch and some final products. Many of the costumes made by the class are used in campus productions.



Student peak

What Is Your Pet Peeve?



“Lip smacking. When you eat, when you chew gum, when you talk — makes me want to rip my ears off.”

Kate Kersey; freshman, history, secondary education



“When people forget their blinker is on when they are driving.”

Angela DePaola; sophomore, social work



“Intolerance —when people are quick to judge others based on either something superficial or without getting to know what they stand for.”

Shannon McKernin; sophomore, biology

piece and photos by CAROLINE KRETSCH

Salsa Dancing Spices Up Thursday Nights

The Artful Dodger draws large crowds with inexpensive dance lessons

By **GABRIEL HENRIQUEZ**
The Breeze

Downtown's eclectic coffeehouse and cocktail lounge, the Artful Dodger, spices up Thursday nights with its invigorating Salsa Nights. With the help of an in-house salsa instructor, a welcoming atmosphere and a lively beat, even a would-be wallflower is uprooted and called to the dance floor.

“I love dancing,” freshman Christiana Rueckert said. “I first started coming to the Dodger after I joined Latin Dance Club. They told me it was good practice. The first few times it was really embarrassing until I started getting better... I just

gives me a sense of confidence that I didn't have before. It gives me so much joy to dance.”

With a fully stocked bar, art on the wall and the opportunity to receive free salsa lessons by arriving before 9:00 p.m., it's easy to understand why The Artful Dodger is a popular place to let loose.

“It gets pretty packed,” bouncer Janna Basye shouted over the music as she collects \$5 at the door after 9:00 p.m. “We usually have 150 people; last week we reached maximum capacity by 11:30.”

Despite JMU's girl-to-guy ratio, Harrisonburg has its share of male salsa dancers who can keep up with, twirl and dip their partners.

Junior Juan Carlos Ortega, a Latin Dance Club

member who knows how to embellish beyond the traditional three-step, quick-quick-slow measure of salsa, said, “When I would teach girls how to dance salsa at the Dodger, they would always tell me I have the moves.”

Understandably, Salsa Night is developing a reputation on campus as something even underaged freshmen, who are admitted into the lounge but not permitted to drink, can partake in.

“One of my friends goes there often and said it's really cool,” freshman Ahmad Abdul Ali said. “I find it interesting to explore the Spanish culture. I'm really bad at dancing, so I think it would be a good experience to go there and learn how to dance.”



DAVID CASTERLINE/*The Breeze*

Seniors Yash Patel and Kristin Hall demonstrate what they've learned.

Springsteen Scores, Yet Again

By **JESS NOVAK**
The Breeze

After listening to Bruce Springsteen's “Working on a Dream” for six hours straight, reading relentlessly about his nearly four-decade-long career, discussing the meaning behind songs released from 1974 to two days ago, it's hard to call Springsteen anything less than a musical genius.

While other aging musicians are bickering about reunions (Zeppelin) and becoming more and more striking resemblances of walking, breathing corpses (Jagger and Richards), Springsteen is not only still delivering four-hour concerts to sold-out stadiums and performing Superbowl half-time shows, but he has successfully delivered yet another creative, refreshing and brilliant album.

Say what you will about “The Boss,” but the title he bears comes hard-earned and sits upon a worthy head. With 24 albums (16 studio albums), hundreds of sold-out shows and dozens of multi-platinum albums and No. 1 singles, it's difficult to argue with the given title of the legendary singer, songwriter and bandleader of the renowned E-Street Band.

“Working on a Dream” is the third album collaborated on by Springsteen, the E-Street band and producer Brendan O'Brien, this de-

cade following closely behind the 2007 release “Magic” and “The Rising” released in 2002. Yet, the overall theme of The Boss's latest project is refreshing compared to these previous E-Street reunions. “The Rising” was defined by its potentially melancholy tone, reflecting back on the events of Sept. 11. “Magic” focused clearly on the disappointments, shame and fear Springsteen experienced during the Bush administration years. However, “Working on a Dream” strays from the political and downbeat themes of these past two albums and delivers precise arrangements, effectively layered vocals and instrumentation and hopeful themes, perhaps reflecting Springsteen's optimistic outlook on the American political landscape.

Springsteen has emerged as a prominent and extremely vocal supporter of the newly elected President Barack Obama, appearing at the Jan. 18 “We Are One” performance in Washington, D.C. However, “Working on a Dream” remains

Quick Facts:

“Working On A Dream”
Bruce Springsteen
Released: Jan. 27
Songs: 13
Price: \$10

See **BOSS**, page 13

Star Power Can't Save ‘Harvey’

Thompson, Hoffman lack on-screen chemistry

The Observer, Notre Dame

Sometimes, when two big stars come together, there's instant movie magic. The inexact science of film chemistry is hard to find, but easy to recognize — it takes a duo like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, for example, to turn a film about AOL users into “You've Got Mail.”

Hollywood legends are often born of the best star duos: Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers or Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland are a few.

But sometimes, despite the star power of the two actors involved, a pair falls a little flat. Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt are both strong actors, but “Meet Joe Black” was a depressing dud.

The stars of “Last Chance Harvey,” Emma Thompson and Dustin Hoffman, shouldn't have this problem. Thompson is almost criminally underused in the film as Kate Walker, a lonely survey worker who spends her days at London's Heathrow Airport in a frumpy uniform, well-angled scrowly and sad-eyed expression. Hoffman is perpetually uncomfortable as Harvey Shine,

a lonely American who takes a chance on a serendipitous weekend in foggy old London with Thompson's Kate.

But despite both Hoffman and Thompson being cinematic heavyweights, the pairing never clicks. It's due to both actors' talent that the film works at all, but the result is an underwhelming 92 minutes of two people who deserve better material.

Harvey Shine is, by conventional standards, a loser. His job as a commercial music composer is hanging by a thread. His youthful ambition to be a jazz pianist has clearly fallen to the wayside. And his daughter Susan (Liane Balaban) just asked her stepfather, Brian (James Brolin), to walk her down the aisle at her posh London wedding. When he skips Susan's reception to fly home and nail a critical business deal, he misses the plane and subsequently loses his job.

It's a tough situation for what Hoffman makes

Quick Facts:

Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson
Times: 2 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:20 p.m. at Harrisonburg Regal Cinemas

See **MOVIE**, page 13

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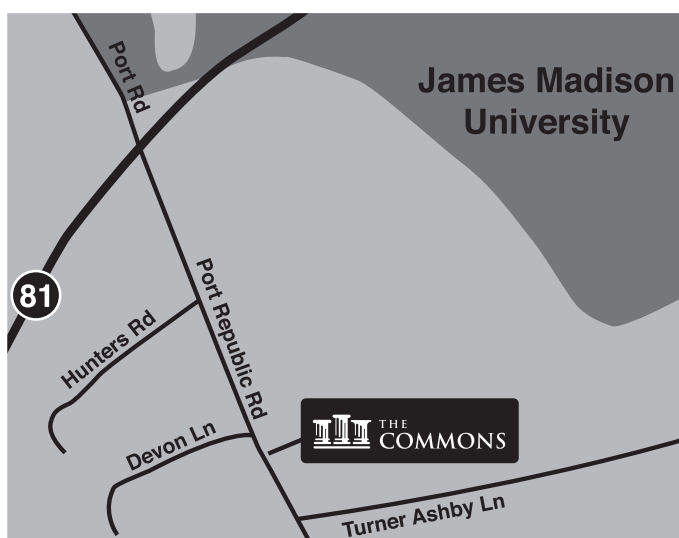
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Home is Where Your Teepee Stands

Student experiments with alternate housing in effort to be green

By ANNE DREYFUSS
The Breeze

For eight months, JMU student Aaron Childs woke up to the morning sun filtering through the canvas of his teepee.

"I'd make a pot of coffee, go sit outside and watch the sun rise," Childs said. "Everything would just be glowing...and at night, when you had the fire going, [the teepee] would shine like a Chinese lantern."

Childs is studying psychology at JMU. His goal is to be a wilderness therapist. In the meantime, he is an adventure trip leader with UREC, where he leads hikes and rock climbing excursions. You can usually find him belaying climbers on the rock wall.

"I tend to feel very despondent when I can't get outside," Childs said. "Rather than trying to get away and get outdoors when I could, I wanted to bring the outdoors closer to me."

That's exactly what he did.

In February 2007, Childs started researching alternative living options that he could bring to the Valley. By June he was living in his own teepee in Churchville, about 20 miles from campus. A friend had a few acres in the country, and Childs pitched his teepee there rent-free, in exchange for helping to maintain the garden and the land.

The 22-foot-wide teepee was made of heavy, waterproof sailcloth and 24-foot-long pine poles — the kinds of poles once

used by Plains Indians. Childs always had a fascination with Native American culture, so for him, living in a teepee wasn't a far leap from normalcy.

"On a lot of people's standards, what I did was pretty radical," Childs said. "But I wanted to demonstrate that you don't have to be some eccentric to do something like [living in a teepee]. You can live a functional lifestyle, you can be a contributing member of society — you can actually blend in — and still have that kind of life."

Childs' day-to-day life was much like any college student. He went to class, maintained an on-campus job — and made the Dean's List last semester. Childs had to go into campus early or stay late sometimes to work on papers because he didn't have the electricity to charge his laptop for longer than an hour. And, paradoxically, he couldn't participate in the environmental activism groups that he'd wanted to because of the work he had to do on his land. But, "everything felt surprisingly natural from the beginning," Childs said.

With no running water or power lines, Childs lived in harmony with the natural world.

The environmental benefits of teepee living included using only rechargeable, battery-powered electricity, showering in less than three gallons of water (which he gathered from a nearby well) and not using con-

ventional housing material, which accounts for a significant amount of landfill waste.

Perhaps the most beneficial environmental changes Childs made were the more subtle steps that complemented his environmentally conscious lifestyle. By composting food scraps, recycling waste materials and buying fresh produce from local farmers, Childs demonstrated practices that anyone can adopt to make their carbon footprint smaller.

For his last semester at JMU, Childs moved into an apartment in town. He still maintains a lot of the environmentally friendly practices he picked up while living in the teepee, though, and he plans to go back in six months.

Although Childs prefers living in a teepee to more traditional living styles, he strongly believes that most of the environmental benefits of living in a teepee can be reproduced in any living situation.

One of Childs' main motivations in living off the grid was in protest of coal-fired power plants. But people everywhere can minimize their reliance on coal-fueled electricity by turning off the lights in a room they're not occupying or unplugging cell phone chargers when they're not in use.

"I don't feel like you have to do anything radical or extreme to make a real change," Childs said. "There's small things that people can do every day."

MOVIE: 'Last Chance' a Failure

Movie, from page 11

out to be a sympathetic character. Quiet but direct, sometimes smooth but painfully awkward, Harvey barely fits into the new life his daughter and ex-wife are living without him. It's interesting to watch Hoffman play with another side of American masculinity, calling to mind both his performance in "Death of a Salesman" and his iconic role in "The Graduate," as though Harvey were an older Ben Braddock with something of a Willy Loman complex.

Simultaneously, writer-director Joel Hopkins gives us Kate, a woman whose friends set her up on blind dates with younger men, and whose mother's incessant phone calls inevitably ruin whatever semblance of a dating life she has left. Thompson is a smart, funny actress, and it's odd to watch her play an uncomfortable frumpster. Still, she handles the role with her usual ease, and her presence redemes the film.

The setting of "Last Chance Harvey," ironically enough, is the character who deserves better material the most. The city of London barely appears in a film that allegedly takes place there. While the film's advertising would lead a viewer to believe that Britain's capital plays its own part, the reality is more disappointing — even though Paddington Bear makes a cameo.

The cinematographer succeeds at capturing each day's waning light — a subtle play on the film's themes of life's passage and late opportunities.

It's fitting, then, that the film ends on an optimistic sunny morning, with Harvey and Kate walking by the River Thames.

But with a script that only occasionally reaches real heights — watch for Harvey's speech at the wedding reception — audiences are left wondering where a better film might have taken these two actors.

BOSS: Delivers in 24th Album, Third with E-Street Band this Decade

Boss, from page 11

seemingly impartial, keeping his lyrics distant from any accusations or expectations concerning political activities. Rather, the album, recorded quickly in between performances during the "Magic" tour, seems to reflect more common, working-class American themes.

One disappointment effectively blemishes Springsteen's otherwise spotless record. When a song is titled "Queen of the Supermarket," there is little hope for its redemption. Even The

Boss can't twist this ballad into something clever with lyrics like "beneath her white apron her secret remains hers/As she bags the groceries her eyes so bored/And sure she's unobserved... Each night I take my groceries and I drift away," shaming his otherwise brilliant poetic verses. The song may capture a blissful innocence, watching an unknowing love from afar, but does so in a way that comes across slightly obsessive and extremely cliché.

However, after ignoring "The Supermarket,"

the rest of the album delivers not only traditional Bruce tunes, featuring the unmistakable Clarence Clemons on saxophone, but startling surprises like the ear-catching "Good Eye," a tune dripping with raw bluesy moans, dirty harmonica solos and irresistible distortion effects. The tune explodes between more expected songs like "This Life" and "Tomorrow Never Knows" where Bruce croons about "A blackness then the light of a million stars/ As you slip into my car" and "This life, this life and then the next/I finger the hem of your dress/My

universe at rest."

Yet, perhaps the greatest charm of Bruce is his ability to communicate to so many people without being overly dramatic or excessive. Rather he is being brutally honest, by speaking of the things he knows best.

"I will steal directly from my life, but in that life are things everyone goes through. I'm not interested in the solipsistic approach to songwriting. I don't want to tell you all about me. I want to tell you about you," Springsteen explained in a recent *Rolling Stone* interview.

And so, he tells us about an outlaw named Pete at the beginning of the album, and the passing of a friend and E-Street member, Danny Federici, who died of melanoma last year. In the emotional tribute, "The Last Carnival," Bruce reflects upon the adventures of the two reckless band mates, "Two daredevils high upon the water's edge/You throwing the knife that lands inches from my heart/Sundown...Sundown/ They're taking all the tents down... The carnival train's leaving town."

Springsteen has a definite appeal in his honest and pure style of composition and performance. While other Americana and folk artists tend to try too hard to match cliché-laden lyrics to predictable arrangements, Bruce effectively "drifts musically in different areas," as he explained in the iTunes bonus "Working on a Dream: The Sessions" 40-minute video extra.

The Boss may be blessed with one of the greatest and most relentless, faithful and talented backing bands in history, but as the mastermind behind the American Heartland Rock delivered for 40 years, The Boss deserves respect.

So, break your car free from the ice, pick up the album and admit it: Bruce is the best thing about this Superbowl. The Boss is back and we're happy to have him.

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WHAT: Production of "The Chairs"
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WHERE: Theatre II
COST: \$4

By **BRETT WILSON**
The Breeze

Take a seat at the Stratford Player's production of "The Chairs." The show, written by playwright Eugene Ionesco in 1952, is composed of three actors, 54 characters and... a lot of "empty" chairs.

This particular play combines the two theatrical elements of minimalism and absurdism. Minimalism is a movement that creates the greatest amount of art with the least amount of characters and sets. Ionesco, known as the father of absurdism, began the absurdist movement in the theater, creating a challenging play for actors Christina Ferrari and Glen North to tackle.

"This is one of his more tame plays. Actually, one of his more coherent plays," North said.

Sophomores, Ferrari, a theater and psychology and North, a musical theater major agreed that this play is difficult to act out, since they have mostly just had experience working with realistic plays.

"Realism is 'I have a button, here is a button,'" Ferrari explained. "Absurdism is 'I eat buttons.'"

"I am a button!" North added.

The premise of the play revolves around a 95-year-old couple, "Old Man" played by North and his wife, "Semiramis" played by Ferrari.

The couple has lived on a secluded

island together for 75 years, receiving no guests and never venturing outside the walls of their humble home.

"These characters are so sweet," Ferrari said. "They're like, you're demented grandparents. They're crazy, but they have a sense of humor."

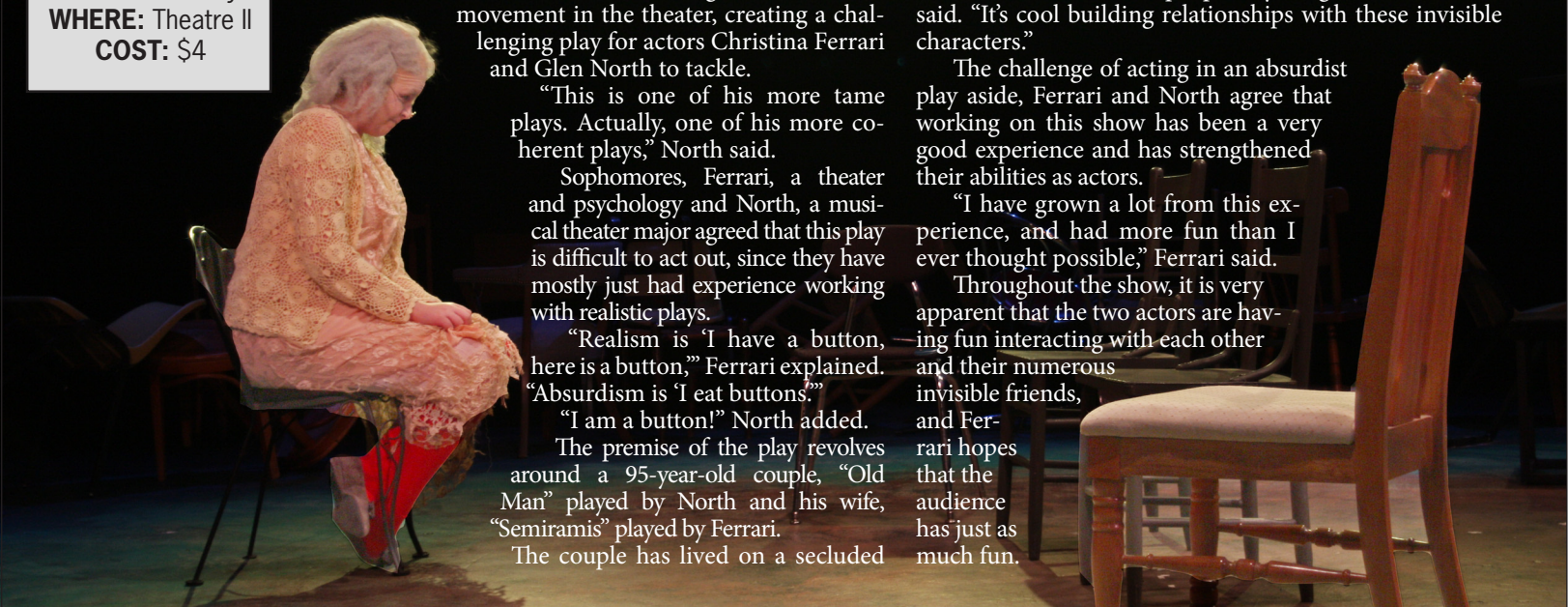
One day, the "Old Man" decides that he has a message to tell the world, and, through the encouragement of his wife, invites everyone he has ever known to come and hear it. The couple greets, welcomes and offers chairs to their 50 invisible guests, an element of the show that North really enjoys.

"We can make these people anything we want," North said. "It's cool building relationships with these invisible characters."

The challenge of acting in an absurdist play aside, Ferrari and North agree that working on this show has been a very good experience and has strengthened their abilities as actors.

"I have grown a lot from this experience, and had more fun than I ever thought possible," Ferrari said.

Throughout the show, it is very apparent that the two actors are having fun interacting with each other and their numerous invisible friends, and Ferrari hopes that the audience has just as much fun.



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CHRISTA BROWN

ABOVE: Sophomore Christina Ferrari plays Semiramis in "The Chairs." **LEFT:** Sophomore Glen North plays her husband "Old Man" (right). Empty chairs serve as the play's props as well as additional characters.

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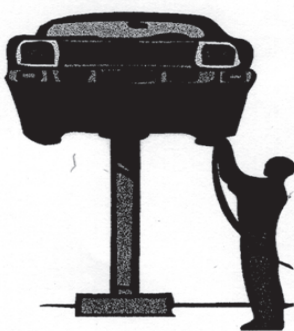
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